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**Sen. Brown relieved governor finally agrees to hire
additional gas pump inspectors, seeks answers to 11 month delay**

LANSING – Sen. Cameron S. Brown, R-Fawn River Township, issued the following statement today regarding the governor’s request of the Michigan Department of Agriculture to spend the \$1.3 million appropriated by the Michigan Legislature in the fall of 2004 to hire additional gas station inspectors:

“While I am relieved that Governor Granholm finally understands the need to hire more gas station inspectors, Michigan motorists deserve to know why it took her nearly 11 months to take action as prices skyrocketed. While her administration was sitting on the \$1.3 million the legislature appropriated, consumers were overpaying hundreds of millions of dollars at the pump. The savings these new inspectors could have achieved for Michigan families had they been hired when they were supposed to be could have lessened the burden on family budgets at this time of record high prices. Michigan consumers deserve better.”

It is estimated that the current gas station quality and quantity compliance rates, which are well below the national average, cost Michigan consumers more than \$300 million a year.

Brown repeatedly called for the governor to hire the inspectors as directed by the Legislature while gas prices continued to rise, but she did not choose to take action until this week.

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